

Newmarket Rural District

IN THE

Administrative County of Cambridge.




ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1949.



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**To the Chairman and Members
of the
Newmarket Rural District Council**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1949 on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics of the Newmarket Rural District.

As this is the last report I shall make I take the opportunity of thanking the Council and all the Staff, particularly those employed in the Public Health Department, for the help and assistance I have received during my 28 years of service.

ARTHUR MORGAN,
Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area: Land 80,856 acres.

Water 245 acres.

Number of Parishes: 22.

Rateable Value: £65,481.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £250.

Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books: 6,339.

Estimated population: 20,340.

The whole district is agricultural in nature and there are no industries except those directly or indirectly associated with agriculture.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

LIVE BIRTHS:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	304	165	139
Illegitimate ...	15	7	8
	—	—	—
Totals	319	172	147
	==	==	==

Birth Rate per thousand estimated resident population 15·6

Birth Rate per thousand population 16·7

(England and Wales)

STILL BIRTHS:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	7	3	4
Illegitimate ...	1	1	—
	—	—	—
Totals	8	4	4
	==	==	==

Rate per thousand total (live and still births) 24·4

	Total	Male	Female
DEATHS	263	143	120

Death Rate per thousand estimated population 12·9

Death Rate per thousand population 11·7

(England and Wales)

Deaths from Puerperal causes:

(a) Puerperal sepsis Nil

(b) Other puerperal causes Nil

Rate per thousand live and still births Nil

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	5	4	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Totals	5	4	1
	==	==	==

Death rate of infants under one year of age:

(a) All infants per thousand live births 15·6

(b) Legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births ... 16·4

(c) Illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate live births .. Nil

	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	48	55	41	27	39
Deaths from measles (all ages)	1	—	—	—	1
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	—	—	—	1	2
Deaths from influenza (all ages)	7	4	5	4	5
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) —	—	—	—	3	—

Birth and Death Rates for the last ten years as compared with 1949

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Birth Rate	12·3	13·3	13·7	14·5	14·6	18·5	17·1	16·1	18·3	16·0	15·6
Death Rate	12·7	13·7	12·8	11·1	12·0	12·5	13·2	11·0	13·3	11·0	12·9

NOTE: The Death Rates are uncorrected for age and sex distribution.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS.

	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year ...	5	1	6
1 and under 2 ...	—	—	—
2 and under 5	1	1	2
5 and under 15	1	—	1
15 and under 25	—	—	—
25 and under 35	7	—	7
35 and under 45	3	2	5
45 and under 55	5	8	13
55 and under 65	23	13	36
65 and under 75	42	27	69
75 and over ..	56	68	124
	—	—	—
Totals	143	120	263
	==	==	==

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY:—

- (a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. A whole time medical officer who also acts for the other Rural areas in the County of Cambridgeshire.
- (b) Chief Sanitary Officer, Surveyor and Housing Officer—
W. H. Couperthwaite, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I.
- (c) Assistant Surveyor and Additional Sanitary Officer—
D. Howells, A.M.I.S.E., A.R.S.I.
- (d) Additional Sanitary Officer—
F. H. Mason, A.R.S.I.

All sanitary officers are qualified inspectors of meat and other foods.

LABORATORY FACILITIES:—

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, made all bacteriological examinations that were required in cases of infectious diseases, etc. and also carried out Methylene Blue Tests on samples of milk.

HOSPITALS:—

There are no General Hospitals situated within the area. Cases of infectious disease are removed to one or other of the Isolation Hospitals under the control of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY:—

The Scheme for extending the mains from Burwell to Wicken (including Upware) was completed during the year and, with the exception of the small parish of Snailwell and some isolated premises, the whole district is now provided with a mains water supply.

The increasing strain on the existing sources of supply caused by extending the mains to Chippenham, Wicken and the Six Mile Bottom area, coupled with the marked public demand for better amenities, resulted in a critical situation during periods of drought. At Swaffham Prior, Saxon Street and Burrough Green Pumping Stations, special pumping arrangements were required to maintain the supplies. The position at the principal station (Swaffham Prior) was that with output raised as high as practicable by running the two pumps together, day-time demand still greatly exceeded the supply, and the pumps had to be run continuously for from 22 to 24 hours daily on many occasions.

On the 6th October a Public Local Inquiry was held by the Ministry of Health into the Council's Regional Water Scheme, prepared by their Consulting Engineers (Messrs. Silcock and Simpson). The Scheme would rectify the existing precarious situation and provide sufficient water to allow sewerage schemes to be put in hand as well as further mains extensions to outlying premises. Water from the new Chippenham well would be pumped up to a million gallon reservoir on the Warren Hill, Newmarket, from there it would gravitate into the existing system of mains in the low level area by a connection at Fordham and would be boosted up to the high level station at Saxon Street. The two other small high level water towers at Stetchworth and Burrough Green would be supplied by gravity from a 6" link main with the Saxon Street Station. Pumping would be discontinued at the existing small waterworks, except Swaffham Prior, and the area at present supplied from this station would be much reduced.

The Minister's decision on the Council's Scheme had not been received by the end of the year.

The total quantity of water pumped at the Waterworks during 1949 was as follows:—

	Totals	Average gallons pumped per week
Swaffham Prior Waterworks	48,153,000	926,000
Soham	15,919,000	306,000
Saxon Street	13,155,000	253,000
Burrough Green	6,078,000	117,000
Stetchworth	2,030,000	39,000
	<u>85,335,000</u>	<u>1,641,000</u>

Samples of the water from each of the waterworks were taken monthly and submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical and bacteriological examination. 142 samples were taken during the year and all proved satisfactory.

TYPICAL RESULTS OF ANALYSES OF PUBLIC SUPPLIES.

Test	Swaffham Prior	Soham	Stetchworth	Saxon Street	Dullingham
Physical Characters	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Reaction (pH value)	7.9	7.3	7.1	7.2	7.6
PARTS PER 100,000					
Chlorine	24.75	8.15	3.8	3.05	4.2
Ammonia (free and saline)	Absent	0.0004	0.0004	0.0006	0.0006
Ammonia (albuminoid)	Absent	0.0018	0.0010	0.004	0.0004
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37 degrees Cent.	0.0212	0.0241	0.0246	0.0207	0.0245
Nitrites	Absent	0.05	Absent	0.05	Absent
Nitrates	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Poisonous Metals	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION					
Coliform Organisms in 100 mls	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
No. of micro-organisms per ml developing at 37 degrees Cent.	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Ditto at 21 degrees Cent.	1	1	2	4	1
Hardness (grains per gallon)	3.80	19.68	22.88	18.58	11.6

Automatically controlled chlorination plants are installed at the three largest waterworks (Swaffham Prior, Soham and Saxon Street) and tests for residual chlorine are carried out as a routine.

The following particulars relate to the various parishes supplied from the public water mains and indicate the number of houses and estimated population supplied by connections to the houses or by standpipes.

PARISH	SUPPLY DIRECT TO HOUSES		SUPPLIED BY STANDPIPES	
	No. of houses	Estimated Population	No. of Houses	Estimated Population
Ashley	38	102	115	344
Bottisham	172	566	40	133
Brinkley	30	113	11	47
Burrough Green	38	117	30	91
Burwell	522	1666	126	378
Cheveley	358	886	67	153
Chippenham	26	91	84	292
Dullingham	95	316	46	184
Fordham	391	1358	76	241
Isleham	265	869	153	517
Kennett	34	109	—	—
Kirtling	43	149	44	165
Lode	85	295	99	304
Soham	1369	4781	33	121
Stetchworth	52	195	80	281
Swaffham Bulbeck	121	393	46	158
Swaffham Prior	158	474	93	279
Westley	29	102	4	17
Wicken	155	498	—	—
Woodditton	207	664	49	147
TOTALS	4188	13744	1196	3852

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No new works of sewerage or sewage disposal were put in hand during the year and no important additions made to existing works.

On the 20th and 21st September a Public Local Inquiry was held by the Ministry of Health into the Regional Sewerage Scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers. The Scheme provided for the sewerage of the parishes of Soham, Burwell, Fordham, Isleham and Wicken and for disposal by pumping to a centrally situated treatment works near Wicken. The National Trust and other influential bodies and persons made objections at the inquiry, the major one being that the discharge of effluent into Wicken Lode would injuriously affect the scientific and natural amenities of Wicken Fen.

The Ministry of Health in a letter dated the 16th November, 1949, informed the Council that the Minister could not approve the Scheme as he had reached the conclusion that it would injuriously affect Wicken Fen. In the Minister's view the peculiar features of the area, involving an extensive system of land drainage which in dry periods becomes semi-stagnant, are such that the discharge of smaller and more widely dispersed quantities of effluent had much to commend

it. The letter went on to suggest that the alternative scheme prepared by the Consulting Engineers for Soham only, should be proceeded with and that with the exception of Fordham, which could be connected to the Soham sewers, the other parishes should be provided for by means of small separate works.

The Council thereupon instructed their Consulting Engineers to submit the scheme for the sewerage of Soham only, in accordance with the suggestions of the Minister of Health.

The sewerage and sewage disposal arrangements at present provided in the village of Cheveley were reported to be inadequate and unsatisfactory, and the Consulting Engineers were instructed to submit proposals for improving the position.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A foreman, seven men and two 12 cubic yard Scammell Refuse Collecting Vehicles are employed in the Refuse Collection and Salvage service which is operated from a depot at Burwell.

All refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping in a pit near the depot and nuisance from insect pests was prevented by regular spraying of the tip face and sleeper road. Rats were successfully dealt with by the use of poison baits.

On 1st April, the additional new refuse collecting vehicle enabled an improved collection service to be inaugurated. Regular weekly collections were made in closely built up areas at Soham and near Newmarket and at fortnightly intervals throughout the rest of the district.

The following is a summary of income received from sales of salvaged materials:—

	£	s.	d.
Waste paper	560	0	0
Rags	117	0	0
Ferrous Metals	38	0	0
Bottles and Jars	16	0	0
Bones	10	0	0
Non-ferrous Metals	9	0	0
Total	£750	0	0

The approximate cost of the service is indicated below, viz:—

	£	s.	d.
Annual Net Cost of Scheme (operating two vehicles)	2480	0	0
Cost per load	4	10	0
Approximate Cost per house			4d. per collection
Vehicle Costs			10½d. per mile

CESSPOOLS.

The Council has not undertaken the emptying of cesspools or removal of nightsoil and a private firm is employed on this work for Council properties. The rapidly increasing expenditure on cesspool emptying has caused much concern and a special sub-committee has been appointed to enquire into the matter.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a summary of the number of inspections made during the year:—

Slaughterhouses and butchers' shops	....	....	....	....	....	90
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	33
Fried Fish Shops and other premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938	....	....	....	....	....	39
Miscellaneous Food Premises	....	....	....	....	....	24
Licensed Premises	....	....	....	....	....	49
Shops	....	....	....	....	....	97
Knacker's Yard	....	....	....	....	....	1
Factories (excluding Bakehouses)	....	....	....	....	....	34
Cowsheds and Dairies	....	....	....	....	....	171
Public Cleansing	....	....	....	....	....	174
Infectious Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	23
Rooms Disinfected	....	....	....	....	....	20
Disinfestations (rooms)	....	....	....	....	....	22
Drainage and Sewerage	....	....	....	....	....	174
Sewage Disposal Works	....	....	....	....	....	102
Schools	....	....	....	....	....	4
Moveable Dwellings	....	....	....	....	....	15
Dwellinghouses	....	....	....	....	....	617
Re-inspection of Dwellinghouses	....	....	....	....	....	65
Housing Act, 1949	....	....	....	....	....	2
Nuisances	....	....	....	....	....	88
Building Bye-laws—New drains tested	....	....	....	....	....	121
—other inspections	....	....	....	....	....	331
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....	331
Building Licence Investigations	....	....	....	....	....	27
Samples taken:						
Water	....	157*				
Ice Cream	....	10				
Trade Waste		1				

*Six water samples taken from private supplies were found to be unfit.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

97 inspections of shops were made for the purposes of Section 10 of the Act.

The following improvements have been carried out as a result of informal action:—

New sanitary accommodation	....	2
Washing facilities provided	....	2
Drainage system installed	....	5
New store built	....	1
Cafe completely reconditioned	....	1

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND OTHER VERMIN.

No case of bed bug infestation was discovered during the year.

Five dwellinghouses were found to be infested with fleas and twenty two rooms and a quantity of furniture in store were disinfested by the use of D.D.T. powder, or a liquid insecticide.

Four bakehouse premises were treated for cockroach infestation.

CAMPING SITES, ETC.

No licences have been issued under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936 authorising the use of land as camping sites.

Five licences have been granted for individual moveable dwellings. The premises were inspected at frequent intervals but it was not found necessary to take any action.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public swimming baths in the district.

HOUSING.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

481 dwellinghouses were inspected and the necessary details recorded.

The following is a summary of the number of dwellinghouses found to be in the various categories:—

CATEGORIES.

1	2	3	5	Total
90	189	193	9	481

The total figures since the commencement of the survey are as follows:—

549	1313	1372	199	3433
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HOUSING—GENERAL.

Number of dwellinghouses inspected	617
Number of re-inspections made	65
Number of Informal Notices served	....	....	....	....	6
Number of Formal Notices served under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936	....	....	....	....	1
Number of houses reconditioned	....	....	....	....	7
Number of new Permanent Houses completed during the year:					
By the Local Authority	....	....	....	....	104
By Private Enterprise	....	....	....	....	18
(N.B.—No temporary houses have been erected by the Local Authority).					
Number of dwellinghouses found to be unfit for habitation and represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	....	....	....	....	5
Number of Demolition Orders made	....	....	....	....	3

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

Number of Dairies and Distributors on the registers (as at 31st December, 1949):—

Dairies	....	....	....	....	4
Distributors	....	....	....	....	7

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

The following licences have been granted:—

Dealers	....	....	....	....	1
Supplementary	....	....	....	....	2

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

The following licences have been granted:—

Dealers	....	....	....	....	1
Supplementary	....	....	....	....	3

INSPECTION.

171 inspections of cowsheds and dairies were made during the year, the majority being concerned with duties under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 which was repealed in September by the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

MILK SAMPLING.

11 samples of milk taken in the course of delivery were subjected to the Methylene Blue Test and five were reported to be not up to the standard required for Accredited or Tuberculin Tested Milk. The producers concerned were visited and given advice as to methods of clean milk production.

2 samples examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli were reported as negative.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Improvements carried out to cowsheds and dairies by informal action:—

New Cowshed built	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Washing Facilities, drainage, hot and cold water supply, and new sanitary accommodation installed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Cowshed and Dairy improved	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The position is that, with the exception of a small number of pigs for private persons, all animals are slaughtered at the Government Abattoir situate within the Newmarket Urban District.

The Urban District's Sanitary Inspector was assisted with the inspection work when necessary.

90 inspections of slaughterhouses and butchers' shops were made during the year.

The figures for unsound meat condemned at the Government Abattoir are included in the report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District.

Regular inspection is made of premises where foodstuffs are stored or exposed for sale, and the following is a summary of the foodstuffs condemned during the year:—

207 tins various foodstuffs	....	....	....	blown or otherwise unfit.
111 lbs. beef	....	....	....	decomposition.
30 lbs. beast's trimmings	....	....	....	inflammation.
1 Pig's carcass	....	....	....	decomposition.
1 Beast's Kidney and suet	....	....	....	„
1 Beast's forequarter	....	....	....	„
75½ lbs. bacon	....	....	....	„
2 stones filleted bream	....	....	....	„
30 cartons chocolate spread	....	....	....	mould.

PREMISES ON WHICH FOOD IS PREPARED.

46 premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, viz.:—

Manufacture or Sale of Preserved Foods	....	....	....	....	....	31
Sale of Ice Cream	....	....	....	....	....	14
Manufacture of Ice Cream	....	....	....	....	....	1

39 inspections were made during the year and a high standard of cleanliness has again been maintained.

Every effort has been made to secure compliance with the requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947. 10 samples of Ice Cream submitted to the Methylene Blue test were reported as follows:—

GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADE 3
4	3	3

The samples were also examined for fat content which averaged 9.36 per cent and ranged between 3.86 and 15.35 per cent.

BAKEHOUSES.

33 visits were made to the 20 bakehouse premises in the district.

A high standard of cleanliness has again been maintained.

The following improvements were carried out as a result of informal action—

Sanitary accommodation, drainage and washing facilities provided	....	2
New tile floor	....	1

LICENSED PREMISES.

The survey of licensed premises in the district has been continued and a further 49 inspections were made during the year.

The following improvements were carried out as a result of informal action—

Complete new sanitary accommodation and drainage	....	....	....	4
New sanitary accommodation	....	....	....	2
New glass washing facilities	....	....	....	3
Hot water system installed	....	....	....	1
Re-decorated	....	....	....	6

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is nothing to report under this heading.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

The requirements of this Act are strictly enforced and 34 licences were granted during the year.

FACTORIES.

The following is a summarised report on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 in the district.

Number of Factories on the register:

Factories with mechanical power	....	....	....	....	56
Factories without mechanical power	....	....	....	....	5
					<hr/> 61

67 inspections were made and three written notices were served in connection with Section 7 of the Act.

The defects were remedied without reference to H.M. Inspector of Factories or Legal Proceedings.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Table 1, introduced for comparative purposes, indicates the number of notifications of the more prevalent notifiable infectious diseases received during the last ten years. It will be noted that there has been a considerable increase in the number of cases of measles notified and a diminution in those of whooping cough but that the district has remained free from the more serious diseases such as poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis), diphtheria, typhoid and paratyphoid fever, dysentery, and illnesses caused by food poisoning.

In so far as the non-notifiable infectious diseases are concerned there is little I can comment upon except to remark that influenza appears to have been more prevalent than usual.

Under Table 2 is shown the number of notifications received during the year arranged in age groups.

TABLE 1.

Number of Notifications of the principal infectious diseases received during the last ten years as compared with 1949.

Year	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Measles	—	106	627	2	249	23	134	36	143	57	492
Whooping Cough	10	127	29	47	9	2	82	32	46	52	15
Pneumonia ..	4	3	12	19	15	2	6	1	5	8	6
Scarlet Fever	23	52	18	22	39	58	20	12	6	20	18
Diphtheria ...	2	2	5	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	39	290	691	92	312	85	243	81	200	138	531

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1949.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...								
1 ..		1	1					
5 ...		3	1					
15 ...	3	3		1				
25 ...	3	7						
35 ...		2			1			
45 ...	1	1	1	1			1	
65 & upwards		1				2		
Totals ...	7	18	3	2	1	2	1	

There was one death of a person not previously notified as suffering from tuberculosis. No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

ARTHUR MORGAN, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

